

their academic dedication and success. Especially in light of the great budgetary challenges faced by the State of California and the City of Oakland, these students have proven themselves to be bright, capable and resourceful.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every student for earning this distinction. Thank you for understanding and promoting the importance of staying in school. By continuing to be the best students possible and by making the most of your education, you will enjoy a full range of opportunities to achieve your personal goals, as well as give back to your communities.

Your accomplishments represent the strength of your initiative and a commitment to excellence. The skills and discipline you have developed will be of great use as you continue to follow your dreams toward success. I am so very proud of you for taking personal pride in your studies. Oakland's future leaders are certainly present at this celebration of academic achievement, and I welcome your many civic contributions in the years to come.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I again salute you for your exemplary academic performance. I am confident that you will continue this fine record of scholarship, service and success. Keep up the good work, and I wish you the very best in all of your future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE EVERY CHILD DESERVES A FAMILY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will give thousands of children in our foster care system a chance at having the one thing many of them say is all they have ever truly wanted—a family. There are approximately 500,000 children in our foster care system right now. Over 125,000 of those are waiting to be adopted, but there are just not enough qualified adoptive and foster parents. That leads to nearly 25,000 youth “aging out” of care each year with no permanent family. These young people are more likely than nearly any other group to become homeless or incarcerated, or to suffer with mental illness or substance abuse.

There is an acute shortage of adoptive and foster parents. Yet, despite this fact and the documented terrible consequences of long stays in the child welfare system, some states have enacted discriminatory bans prohibiting children from being placed with qualified parents due solely to the parent's marital status or sexual orientation. A number of additional states are actively considering similar discriminatory restrictions. Most recently, Arizona enacted a law to restrict the ability of unmarried and gay and lesbian individuals from adopting. Only six states affirmatively allow gay and lesbian couples to adopt jointly.

This is unfair to good people who want to open their homes to youth, unimaginable for kids who just want a family to love them, and unsafe for children for whom we in this body are responsible. If states will not do the right thing, the Federal government should.

Congress invests over \$7 billion in the child welfare system each year. We should not ac-

cept policies that use Federal funds to enact discriminatory barriers to adoption and close the door to thousands of potential homes. Studies suggest that upwards of 2 million gay and lesbian individuals are interested in adopting or fostering a child. There are already approximately 1 million lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) parents raising about 2 million children in the U.S. Leading child welfare, public health, medical and legal organizations agree that opening up the homes of all qualified prospective parents can help support the unique needs of foster youth. Groups including the Child Welfare League of America, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Psychological Association, and the American Bar Association, all support the ability of qualified unmarried and LGBT couples to foster and adopt. More than 30 years of research indicates optimal development for children is based on the stable attachments to committed and nurturing parents, not on the marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity of the parents. This research consistently demonstrates that children raised by same-sex parents exhibit the same level of emotional, cognitive, social and sexual development outcomes as children raised by straight parents.

When considering a potential placement for a child, the only criteria should be what is in the child's best interest and whether the prospective parent can provide a safe and nurturing home. Bigotry should play no part in this decision. That is why I am introducing the “Every Child Deserves a Family Act.” This legislation would simply prohibit any entity that receives Federal child welfare funds from denying or delaying adoption or foster care placements based solely on the prospective parent's marital status or sexual orientation. States and child welfare agencies that fail to end discriminatory practices would face financial penalties. This is the same approach that has put an end to race discrimination in adoption and foster care placements.

Children in our foster care system are some of our most precious—and vulnerable—youth. They depend on us to do all we can to find them supportive and loving families, and it is our obligation to act in their best interests when doing so. To fail in our task of opening every possible door to stable, permanent and loving homes is a grave disservice to these children and to our country. We cannot allow divisive politics and the culture war to further harm these children by shrinking the number of prospective adoptive and foster parents. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in saying yes to children and no to bigotry by co-sponsoring the “Every Child Deserves a Family Act.”

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DAVID BRODER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of the life of David Broder, who was a great servant and patriot to this country.

Mr. Broder was born in Chicago Heights, Illinois in 1929. He received his bachelor's de-

gree in liberal arts and soon began writing for two prominent newspapers, The Chicago Maroon and the Hyde Park Herald. By 1960, he was writing for the New York Times covering the presidential race between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. He soon took a job writing for the Washington Post, where he remained for more than 40 years.

Throughout his career, Mr. Broder achieved many milestones and was recognized for his superb skills in the art of journalism. He won a Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for his political commentary and was the recipient of the 4th Estate Award from the National Press Club in 1988. He was honored by Washingtonian Magazine as one of the best 50 journalists in both 2005 and 2009. Mr. Broder boasted the most appearances for a journalist on Meet the Press with over 400 since 1963.

Though David, unfortunately, left us one month ago, he will always remain in our memories because of his work and service covering the issues that matter most to this country.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering the life of David Broder and his devotion to uncovering the truth. David was truly a remarkable individual and a phenomenal asset to all of us here in Washington and around the world.

HONORING SGT. JOHN STONE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, we go to baseball games to relax, root for our heroes on the field, and enjoy the company of other fans. But on April 14, 2010, for John Stone it was a day to be a hero in the stands at Yankee Stadium when he saw a woman choking on a piece of food.

Mr. Stone, a staff sergeant and medic in the Connecticut National Guard who served in Iraq, was enjoying the game in his Don Mattingly jersey when he saw a crowd of people around a woman 15 rows away who was choking. It was Toby Weiss who came to root for the Yankees but was now choking on a piece of food.

Seeing the crowd, Sgt. Stone assumed all was well, but then he realized no one was able to help the terrified woman who was already turning blue. He ran to her and performed the Heimlich maneuver and jarred loose the food.

Mrs. Weiss, the wife of Rabbi Avi Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, was checked out at the aid station at the stadium and was well enough to return to the game and to thank Sgt. Stone.

Rabbi Weiss said other people rushed to help his wife but they weren't able to help. “Suddenly,” he said, “this kind of Elijah figure appeared from nowhere. He knew exactly what to do.” Mrs. Weiss also insisted Sgt. Stone was heaven-sent. “God sent me an angel,” she said, noting that her unassuming hero blushed over the praise.

Following the scare, fans applauded, hugged and high-fived Sgt. Stone on his way back up to his seat. Stone, who lives in Montville, Connecticut, was at the Stadium with his brother Jamie, an Army infantry soldier on leave from duty in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Stone is being honored at Rabbi Weiss's Hebrew Institute of Riverdale and I want to join everyone there in congratulating him and thanking him for his heroic deed.

Jews have a saying that to save a life is to save the world. Sgt. John Stone has indeed saved a very large part of our world here in Riverdale. Sgt. Stone, from his service in Iraq treating our wounded to his saving Mrs. Weiss at Yankee Stadium, represents the true character of America. I am proud to join in thanking him for his heroic actions.

RECOGNIZING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, which occurs each year during National Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

In 2004, the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health began designating the first full week of May as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week to promote the positive development of our youth. Additionally, since 2006, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Mental Health Services has declared one day during the week National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day.

On this special day, a distinguished coalition is gathering in Wisconsin. Groups like Wisconsin Family Ties, the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health, Wisconsin United for Mental Health, the Supporting Families Together Association, and Wisconsin Public Broadcasting are joining with affected youth, their families, and others in our community. They stand together at the Madison Children's Museum to focus our attention on this important public health issue.

In Wisconsin the statistics paint a startling picture. One out of every five children who appear healthy is, in fact, suffering from mental health problems. Children with mental illness and disabilities have a far greater likelihood of being suspended or expelled from school, abusing drugs or alcohol, or ending up in the juvenile justice system. In 2008, only 11 percent of Wisconsin children living with serious mental health disorders received any public mental health services, less than one third the rate for adults.

However, not all hope is lost. At the federal level, the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act includes numerous provisions that will help diagnose, treat, and support children with mental illness and their families. For example, the law immediately eliminates pre-existing condition clauses for children. This will help ensure that more families can afford to seek treatment for their child and may do so without fear of losing their coverage.

We must continue to pursue a course of action that works to not only identify and diagnose mental illness as early as possible, but also provide comprehensive treatment to those affected. The better we are able to serve the needs of our youth who suffer from mental illness, the sooner we can reduce long term costs associated with dropout rates, sub-

stance abuse, homelessness, and the justice system. We know that children with mental illness can live full and productive lives as long as we provide them with the support they need.

In the 1800s, the color green was used to identify people who were labeled "insane." Since then, the color has taken on a very different meaning, one that now signifies new life, new growth, and new beginnings. Today, I join with children, families, and supporters both in south central Wisconsin and across the nation in wearing the color green to show our support. Above all, I salute all those who are working to raise awareness of this crucial issue and hope today serves as a reminder that each one of us can and must do better to address children's mental health issues.

IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT NICK DIMARCO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant Nick DiMarco of the Garfield Heights Police Department and his well-deserved retirement. As a long-serving officer of the law, and the founder of the acclaimed Shop with a Cop Program, Lt. DiMarco has served the people of the greater Cleveland area with honor and professionalism.

Lt. Nick DiMarco was appointed to the Garfield Heights Police Department in 1966. On February 1st, 1986, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and on January 11th, 1990, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant. After 45 years of service, Lt. DiMarco retired from a long career of serving the public on February 16th, 2011.

Besides serving valiantly as an officer of the law for so many years, Lt. DiMarco also established the Shop with a Cop Program in 1995. The program, which occurs annually during the holiday season, raises money to purchase gifts for underprivileged children. On the day of the event, children are escorted to a major retail store via a police-accompanied motorcade and allocated \$120 to shop. Each child is accompanied by a police officer from the various participating departments. The program, now in its 15th year, has helped over 1,000 children in the greater Cleveland area, and involves officers from 17 police departments who volunteer their time to share the holiday spirit with those less fortunate. This past year, the program raised \$38,900; 391 children participated.

In addition to his dedicated career with the Garfield Heights Police Department, Lt. Nick DiMarco served as the President of the Fraternal Order of the Police of Ohio from 1990 to 2011, where he fought to protect the rights and privileges of law enforcement officers in Ohio.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Lt. Nick DiMarco's long career of public service and civic virtue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I regret my absence in the House yesterday, May 2, 2011, as I was in my district attending to personal business. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 278.

HONORING BILL KNOWLES

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding individual whose commitment and dedication has done so much to provide exceptional government services to the residents of Hamilton County, Tennessee. Those of us who live and work in Hamilton County can be thankful for the tireless efforts of Mr. Bill Knowles in his 36 years of service as Hamilton County Clerk.

First elected in 1974, County Clerk Bill Knowles has made it his priority to not just provide excellent services to his constituents, but to also manage an office that provides innovative ideas and consistently exceeds expectations. Shortly after being elected to his position, Bill Knowles solved the problem of long waits for vehicle registration tags by making it possible to renew tags by mail. Mr. Knowles's initiative was soon followed by the Tennessee legislature, which passed a law requiring tags to be mailed in throughout the state.

The exceptional work ethic and innovative ideas that are the hallmark of Bill Knowles have resulted in many firsts for Hamilton County. Hamilton County was the first county in Tennessee to allow for tag renewal by Internet. It was the first to have on-the-spot vehicle title printing. The county led the way with electronic record keeping and continued this development by computerizing marriage records in 2009.

In recognition of a litany of impressive accomplishments over a 36 year career, I hereby salute Clerk Bill Knowles and thank him for his service to the people of Hamilton County. I, for one, am grateful for his service, and I know that the fine residents of Hamilton County join me in honoring him.

IN HONOR OF LESLIE L. MEGYERI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leslie L. Megyeri, who is being honored by the American Hungarian Foundation. Leslie will be the recipient of the Abraham Lincoln award for his courageous actions during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

During Mr. Megyeri's adolescence he read the great Hungarian poet Petöfi, whose words